

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-11.

12. (new) A lancet having a support body enclosing a needle such that a pointed tip of the needle projects beyond the end of the support body and a removable guard located over the pointed tip of the needle and interconnected with a support body holding the needle via a breakable neck portion moulded with the guard and the support body, and the guard being formed of a moulded plastics material with an outer edge thickened region leading from the end of the guard remote from the needle tip to a thinner section of the plastics material approaching the needle tip, the plastics material forming a further thickened region about the needle tip, but separated from the outer edge region by said thinner section.

13. (new) A lancet according to claim 12, wherein the guard is formed with a centrally positioned hole close to the end of the guard remote from the needle point.

14. (new) A lancet according to claim 12, wherein the guard is of generally tab-like form, with the thickened region

forming arc-like portions on the two side edges of the guard which lead to the thinner section of plastics material adjacent to the needle tip.

15. (new) A method of forming a lancet in which a needle is held in a mould formed to create a support body for holding the base portion of the needle and a removable guard about the pointed needle tip and to form a breakable neck portion between the support body and the guard, the mould having an entry point for plastics material, at the end of the guard remote from the needle point, leading to an outer edge thickened hollow region which in turn leads to a thinner hollow section approaching the needle tip and a further enlarged hollow region about the needle tip, and plastics material is injected into the mould via the entry point to create the guard about the needle tip.

16. (new) A method according to claim 15, wherein the plastics material flows around both sides of a pin located close to said entry point towards said edge thickened hollow region.

17. (new) A lancet according to claim 13, wherein the guard is of generally tab-like form, with the thickened region forming arc-like portions on the two side edges of the guard which

lead to the thinner section of plastics material adjacent to the needle tip.